

REMARKS

The final Office Action mailed February 11, 2003, has been carefully reviewed. Upon entry of the amendment presented above, only allowed claims 9-12 and objected to claims 14 and 15 (not rejected) will be present in the application, whereby the present application should then be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable consideration, entry of the amendments presented above and early formal allowance are respectfully requested.

The claim objections have been noted. The misspelling of the word "thrust" in claims 9 and 13 (the latter carried over to above amended claim 14) has now been corrected. As regards claim 10, "9)" has simply been deleted, as reference characters in any event have no effect on the scope of the claims, MPEP 608.01(m).

Claims 13 and 16 have been rejected as obvious under Section 103 from certain prior art in combination. This rejection is no longer applicable in view of the cancellation of claims 13 and 16.

For the record, however, such cancellation at the present time is made without prejudice to the claimed invention and without prejudice to applicant's rights to pursue claims 13 and 16 and/or similar claims in a continuing application without any penalty whatsoever, if applicant

chooses to do so, such rights including rights provided by Sections 120 and 119.

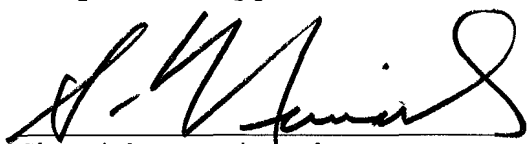
Claims 9-12, 14 and 15 have been indicated as being directed to allowable subject matter (paragraphs 5 and 6 on page 4 of the final action). Applicant accordingly understands that these claims are deemed by the PTO to define novel and unobvious subject matter under Sections 102 and 103. As claim 14 has been placed in independent form, all these claims should now be in condition for formal allowance.

Applicant believes that all issues have been resolved. Applicant therefore respectfully requests favorable consideration, entry of the amendments presented above, and early formal allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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